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# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the  
Minnesota Golf Course  
Superintendents' Association

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## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

# Thanks, Joe Moris, For Your Leadership And Inspiration



The center picks the puck up inside his own blue line and skates toward the attacking zone. As he strides over the center red line, he dumps the puck into the far corner and heads to the bench for a line change. Legs were becoming tired, so it was time for a teammate to carry on. . . .

If anyone knows me, they know I love the game of hockey. I have been playing the sport since I was a wee lad and continue playing the same even today. As my career headed toward turf management, there are many similarities between the two that I will share with you. In this analogy, there is the symbolic handing of the gavel between presidents as the two hockey players change lines. It is a team effort if we are to succeed. Thank you, Joe Moris, for all your leadership and inspiration this past year. Stay tuned for results of the game.

**My tenure as president was not even five hours old** when a wonderful happening took place. As I was walking in the door to our house, my children were standing at the top of the stairs holding up a homemade sign saying "CONGRATULATIONS. WE'RE PROUD OF YOU DAD." If that did not make my heart quiver, nothing would. Family is a very important part of our lives and our jobs tend to take that part away. As our season has slowed a bit, spend some REAL time together. It does pay dividends later on.


**The 67th Annual Conference in conjunction with the MT&G Foundation Conference** was an overwhelming success. A total of 921 people participated at the Minneapolis Convention Center over the three days. John Granholt and the Conference Committee had every detail worked out to pull this event off without a hitch. My sincere thanks to every one involved. We will be even bigger next year as we move the trade show into the big dome. It was not so long ago that we were standing around the courtyard of the Sheraton NW having a "bull session." The monies generated from the 1994 conference will help the MT&G Foundation get off and running on its own feet.

**The MGCSA will have representation on the MGA Board of Directors** beginning in 1995. Ross Galarneault, Executive Director of the MGA, announced the decision at their last Board meeting. It's a great sign of future partnerships in cooperation that will continue to make golf a great game, especially in Minnesota.

**My presidential directive to you the members of the MGCSA** is to get involved. Get involved in the association and in your community. We must go out and let people know about ourselves and our impact on society. Do not wait for people to come to you; by then it will be too late. As Dr. Farrentino pointed out to us, we still control our destiny as it comes to legislative directives or environmentalist outcry. Areas of involvement include rotary clubs, jaycees, chamber of commerce, blood donations, volunteering at schools, church functions, getting to know your legislator, youth coaching and any other gatherings in which you can openly communicate to others about our professional and environmental development. Let me know if there is anything we as an association can do to develop these ties with the public. We must do this to improve our profession.

— Kevin Clunis, CGCS

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# 1994 Turf Conference and Show Is 'Tremendous Success'

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*Total Attendance Was 921; Booths Reach Limit of 150*

For openers, the 1994 Turf Conference and Show held at the Minneapolis Convention Center December 7-9 indeed had a successful beginning.

As newly-elected MGCSA President Kevin Clunis said, "It was an overwhelming success."

Sponsored by the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation and the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, it was billed as The Greater Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference and show and held in conjunction with the MGCSA's 67th annual meeting.

Excellent attendance, a superb program, enjoyable camaraderie and the pleasant atmosphere at the Convention Center added up to a particularly successful conference.



**Total attendance was 921**, including all attendees and vendors.

A record number of 150 exhibitor booths was well-received. In fact this year's conference committee had to turn away 15 additional companies who wanted booth space since the limit of 150 had been reached.

However, next year's conference won't have that problem since the show will be moved into one of the dome areas.

Breakdown of the members attending for the eight associations involved was:

Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association (MGCSA), 421;

Minnesota Park Superintendents' Association (MPSA), 63;

Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association, (MSTMA), 14;

Minnesota Association of Cemeteries (MAC) 4;

Minnesota Association of School Maintenance Supervisors, (MASMS), 4;

Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association (MNLA), 4;

Minnesota Turf Association (MTA), 1;

Northern Minnesota Forage and Turf Seed Advisory Committee (NMFTSAC), 1.



**KEVIN CLUNIS** gives past president Joe Moris a plaque for appreciation of his presidential services for the MGCSA.

In addition, there were 135 persons with no association affiliation at the show.

**New MGCSA officers elected** at the association's annual meeting were:

**Kevin Clunis**, CGCS, Stillwater Country Club, president;

**James Gardner**, CGCS, Rochester Golf & Country Club, vice-president;

**John Granholt**, Eau Claire Golf & Country Club, secretary;

**Tom Kientzle**, CGCS, The Pines at Grand View Lodge, treasurer.

**Joe Moris**, Tartan Park, GC, outgoing president, remains on the board an ex-officio member.

New directors elected were:

**Butch Greeninger**, MTI Distributing Co.

**Charlie Pooch**, Les Bolstad University of Minnesota Golf Course;



**MIKE HILLIARD** of the Par Aide Co.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

# Turf Conference —

(Continued from Page 5)

**Dave Sime**, Benson Golf Club;  
**Fred Taylor**, Mankato Country Club;  
**Pat Walton**, Rolling Green Country Club.

Directors completing their terms were Cary Femrite, Pebble Creek Golf Club, and Norma O'Leary, CGCS, Silver Bay Country Club. Both were complimented for their service.

Remaining on the board are William S. Cox, Tianna Country Club; Richard Grundstrom, Indian Hills Golf Club; Tom Johnson, New Richmond Golf Club, and Monty Montague, National Mower/Turfco Mfg. Inc.

Johnson was selected as the new editor of *Hole Notes* and will work with Larry Vetter, also appointed to the publication association's Editorial Committee.



**TWO NEW DIRECTORS OF THE MGCSA** are Charlie Pooch, left, Les Bolstad University of Minnesota Golf Course and Fred Taylor of Mankato Golf Club.

Service plaques were awarded to:

John Beyer, Pine Meadows (40 years); Cal Polsean, Westward Ho Country Club (35 years); James Wodash, Willmar Golf Club; Larry Mueller, Minnesota Valley Country Club; Tom Stelter, Highland 9-Hole (all 30 years); Keith Scott, Oak Ridge Country Club; John Queensland, Cedar River Country Club; Lorin Maenke, Edina Country Club, and Robert Borovansky, Rich Acres Golf Club (all 25 years).

A **Distinguished Service Award** was presented to Jim Latham of the United States Golf Association's Green Section.



**1994 Service Award Winners.**



**THE HOWE CO'S** Dennis Salwei, left and Jerry Deziel.

The **Watson Award** went to Cary Femrite, Pebble Creek Golf Club, for his journalistic efforts for *Hole Notes*.

The **President's Plaque** was presented to Joe Moris, Tartan Park Golf Club.

Two new honorary members of the MGCSA also were elected. They were **Bob Vavrek**, USGA Green Section, and **Dr. Frank Rossi**, a professor at the University of Wisconsin.

Scholarship honorees were Mike Brower, Minneapolis, a student at Penn State; Jeffrey Kolodjski, Wyoming, Iowa State; James Schmitz, Rochester, Riverland Tech; Eric Sundet, Eden Prairie, Michigan State, and Theresa Vyvskocil, Shakopee, also at Penn State.



**JUDGES AT THE MGCSA BUSINESS MEETING** from left are Larry Mueller, Minnesota Valley, Dale Caldwell, Minneapolis Golf Club and Doug Mahal of The Minikahda Club.

The goal of this combined turf conference was to establish continuity among related fields, educate, share problems and support with increased members a professional attitude in all of the turf industry.

The cross-section of speakers had useful take-home information for all of the allied associations. The pesticide issue is one that affects us all and one of the concurrent sessions, "Pesticides and the Public" dealt with that.



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want to extend to all of you the warmth of this holy season with wishes of good will and appreciation.

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*Milt + Cath Wiley*  
*Steve [unclear]*

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# Just What Do You Do During The Winter?

Now that fall is behind us and winter is here, most golf course superintendents will finally be able to relax and get a normal schedule back into their lives. But wait, there is just one more question that needs to be answered. Somebody asked me it again the other day.

We have all heard it. It is probably one of the most ridiculous questions ever asked (never mind what your teachers told you). In fact, there is such a thing as a dumb question, and it is usually directed at the golf course superintendent. It goes something like this: "Just what do you do during the winter?"

As usual, I smiled and gave a kind description of what it really takes to operate a golf course in both the summer and the winter. My response gave the usual listing of items that need to be accomplished during the winter in order to make a golf course operate as professionally and effectively as it does during the summer. We have all made out the lists before and we all have presented them to people at some time or another and we all have received the same response at the end of the presentation. It sounds something like, "Ohhhh."

This type of question really bothers me. It is one of those things that can really get to me. I just don't know what they think. These people must believe that accountants work only during tax time and then do nothing the remaining part of the year. They must believe that football players only work during the game and have nothing else to do with the rest of their time. Or, more than likely, they just don't think!

In most instances, our profession is being elevated beyond the stereo-typical "Carl" from the movie Caddy Shack. We are no longer thought of as the "head grasscutter," at least not in thoughtful and knowledgeable circles.

I must admit, however, that I know of a few bastions of resistance to this thinking that still exist. Some of them are so close to home that they actually reside in our own

clubs. In fact, it was only a few years ago at the GCSAA annual banquet that the president of the CMAA addressed the golf course superintendents present as "head greenskeepers." I guess that is not as bad as "head grasscutter," is it?

We have, in fact, come a long way in the past 20 years. Our profession is being elevated to one that does include upper management. We are being recognized as professional, well-educated, loyal, hard-working, individuals. Our profession is being recognized as well-educated and influential in the golf community. In fact, many golf course superintendents are being elevated to the position of General Manager, above the clubhouse managers and the golf professionals. The reason? We are good managers in all necessary departments—personnel, accounting, motivation, leadership, master planning. . .).

However, we still have a long way to go. I offer as evidence the question that was recently posed to me: "What do you do during the winter?" Many people do not entirely understand what we do. It is up to each and every one of us to make certain that these people begin to understand. If we don't tell them, nobody will.

—Michael Semler  
Grass Roots

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# Thoughts From Across The Pond

Environmentalists claim that the pesticides used to keep fairways fair and greens green often flow into nearby streams, killing fish and poisoning the local tap-water. They blame clumsy excavation by golf-course contractors for causing landslides, such as the one that killed 54 people in South Korea in 1992. And they accuse developers in poor countries of stealing water from irrigation projects to use on their courses, leaving local paddy fields parched.

In Asian countries where land is scarce and golf courses are spreading faster than anywhere else, conflict is inevitable. Jungles are being sacrificed to golf. So are fields that have provided peasants with a living for centuries. Hence the vehemence of Asians who hate golf.

A village leader in Indonesia recently served seven months in jail for resisting eviction by golf course contractors from land he and his neighbors had been farming for 40 years. Anti-golf demonstrators in South Korea have fought pitched battles with riot police. And, in Japan (the Global Anti-Golf Movement) is encouraging people to dress up as water sprites and write to the government on behalf of trees which will be bulldozed to make way for the wicked game.

Up to a point, the campaign is working. Community opposition has stymied the construction of 96 South Korean golf courses in the last couple of years, and a spokesman for GAG'M, Gen Morita, claims some credit for the cancellation of 720 proposed courses in Japan, where the anti-

golf lobby has been helped by the plunge in the value of tradable Japanese golf club memberships.

The anti-golf lobby would contain fewer environmentalists if all golf course architects were as sensitive as those in Scotland (where) the aim has always been to design courses that use the existing contours of the land, rather than moving tonnes (sic) of earth, as the Americans do, or installing escalators between sunken green and raised tees, as the Japanese do.

(Scottish-type golf clubs) are able to argue convincingly that they are more friendly to the environment than many other sorts of development. A heather-flanked fairway certainly nurtures more birds and insects than a car park or a suburban shopping development. And a golf course is arguably just as eco-friendly as an arable field that is soaked with herbicides, fungicides, pesticides and all those other-cides several times a year.

*(Excerpted from "Golf's Killjoys," The (London) Economist.)*



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